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LEGISLATIVE NOTES AND REVIEWS

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Legislative Sessions 1916. The following States held regular sessions in 1916: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Kentucky, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Virginia and South Carolina. The following States have held special sessions: Oklahoma, California, Illinois, Connecticut, Tennessee, and Massachusetts.

The Oklahoma legislature met and adopted a registration act, a usury act, and a measure to create industries at the state prison. The California legislature convened to revise the primary and election laws. The Illinois general assembly met primarily to pass laws for appropriations which had been declared unconstitutional. Tennessee legislators met to consider charges against certain county officers. Connecticut and Massachusetts convened their legislatures to authorize the soldiers on the Mexican border to vote.

J. A. L.

State Administration and Budget. Governors' Messages. Few proposals were made by the governors of the various States which had legislative sessions in 1916 touching reorganization of state government. The governors of three States—Rhode Island, Maryland and New York—made proposals regarding the budget system, and one governor only, Mr. McCall of Massachusetts, dealt with the subject of state administration from the standpoint of its organization for efficiency.

Of the three proposals for a budget system, that in New York was the most comprehensive. The subject of a budget has been of supreme importance in New York owing to the extent of the State's business and its growing complexities. An executive budget system was proposed in the new constitution which was rejected in 1915. Governor Whitman attempted to secure orderly budget procedure in the session of 1915 and 1916 but failed to secure the adoption of the plan.

The recommendations made by Governor Whitman in his message regarding the budget are as follows:

First. That the fiscal year end June 30 in order to eliminate the excuse for special and supply bills.